

U. S. BOARD ACTS TO END CAR SHORTAGE

Interstate Commerce Commission Gives Railroads Ten Days to Act.

WRONG STYLED FLAGRANT

Carriers Required to Return to Owners Coal, Refrigerator and Like Equipment.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The Interstate Commerce Commission took drastic steps today to relieve the shortage of coal, refrigerator, heater, ventilated and insulated cars, serving notice upon the railroads that unless they appoint a committee within ten days, vested with plenary powers to cooperate in relief measures, the commission will act independently.

Holding that present conditions are without a parallel in the country's history, that the emergency is flagrant and that in the emergency any doubt as to its authority to act should be decided in favor of the general public, the commission also issued an order requiring all cars of the specified types on their lines as fast as the cars are delivered and unloaded at their destinations.

The order will become effective February 1, and will remain in force until May 1. By that time, the commission believes, relief will be general. In issuing its order, the commission reviewed at length its investigation of the situation, saying it had found that some carriers honestly endeavored to relieve the situation, but that as a rule and "with but few exceptions," the roads "have failed to afford relief."

Withholding assistance from coal, refrigerator and like equipment, the commission said, is a diversion and misuse of cars which would be stopped, the order says hundreds of instances of diversion and misuse have been noted, and it is clear that the entry of a formal order is necessary to protect shippers, consignees and the general public.

Commissioners Clark, Clements and Hall dissented from the order.

Effect of Car Shortage.

"The present conditions of car distribution throughout the United States have no parallel in our history," said the commission's decision. "Millions have shut down, prices have advanced, perishables of great value have been destroyed and hundreds of carloads of food products have been delayed in reaching their natural markets. In some territories there have been so many cars on the lines of the carriers and in their terminals that transportation service has been thrown into unprecedented confusion, long delays in transit have been the rule rather than the exception and operation of established industrial activities has been made uncertain and difficult. These conditions have made necessary a far reaching investigation by the commission and have urgently demanded prompt, decisive action."

"In spite of the efforts which have been made to put a stop to the diversion and misuse of cars, commission's inspectors day after day reported numerous instances of such diversion and misuse."

"Urgent as is the need for relief, the respondents (the railroads), with but few exceptions, have failed to afford relief. They have assured the commission that they would put a stop to the diversion and misuse of coal and refrigerator cars, and would return to their owners without delay, but since that assurance was given hundreds of instances of diversion and misuse have been called to our attention."

"It is clear that the entry of a formal order is necessary to protect shippers, consignees and the general public."

ARTILLERYMEN SAVE SAILORS.

They Rescue Six of a Tugboat Crew Off Plum Island.

New London, Conn., Jan. 20.—A rescue force of coast artillerymen in a mine planting power boat saved six of the crew of a large tugboat which went ashore off Plum Island today. The captain of the vessel refused to leave his boat.

HELD IN WHISKEY FRAUDS.

Atlanta Man Charged With Being "Controlling Figure."

FORT SMITH, Ark., Jan. 20.—Characterizing James H. Surber of Atlanta as the "controlling figure," and the "moving spirit" of conspirators of "wide scope" in the whiskey frauds here last year, by which the Government alone was defrauded out of large sums of revenue.

JEWELLERS DINE AMID FLAGS.

Preparedness Theme of Speeches at Patriotic Dinner.

The members of the Jewellers' Twenty-four Karat Club made their sixteenth annual banquet in the Waldorf-Astoria last evening an extremely patriotic affair. After the 700 members and guests had assembled thousands of tiny American flags—80,000, it was said—were displayed on the diners from the ceiling. The speeches were devoted chiefly to preparedness.

Whitman at Green Funeral.

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MARITIME RISK IS LOWER.

Raiders Drop as Beller Grows. Raider Will Be Captured.

General belief of underwriters that the German raider will be driven out of the British waters which have been in pursuit was responsible for a slight easing of the war risks to South American ports yesterday. With the first news of the raid rates jumped up to 5, 7 and even 10 per cent, according to the vessel, the cargo and her destination. It was reported yesterday that business was written at from 4 to 10 per cent, on belligerent ships and 1 per cent, on neutrals.

The transatlantic rates are slightly higher, but the rates for 8 to 10 per cent, on belligerents and neutrals, except American Line vessels. The risk to the Mediterranean is firm at 10 per cent.

The market continues generally unsettled, with each vessel offering a special case for investigation. The general rate quoted is 10 per cent, on all steamships. Underwriters here are eagerly awaiting confirmation of news of the arrival in a German port of the steamer Yarrowdale, reported from Berlin as having been taken a prize.

RESCUED AVIATORS ASSERT PERMISSION

Commandant Glassford, However, Repeats That Their Flight Was Unauthorized.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 20.—In connection with rumors that a court-martial would be held to consider the flight of Lieut.-Col. G. H. Bishop and Lieut. W. A. Robertson in an army aeroplane from San Diego to Calexico, Cal., resulting in the wilds of Lower California, Lieut. Robertson said here today he had started the trip after he had asked and received permission from his superior.

Robertson, first of the two to return to American soil, was on his way to the North Island aviation station, near San Diego, to report to Col. W. A. Glassford, commandant of the aviation school. Lieut. Robertson issued a statement today in San Diego that his original intention that Lieut.-Col. Bishop and Lieut. Robertson had official authority to make a flight to Calexico or to any other place beyond the confines of the North Island still stands. Col. Glassford said no orders authorizing a flight of any kind had been issued by him.

BISHOP ON THE WAY.

Army Ambulance Bringing Him Out of Mexico.

WALTON, Ariz., Jan. 20.—The return of the army ambulance which crossed the border last night to bring back Lieut.-Col. Bishop, who was left Thursday on the Sonora desert, while this party brought Lieut. Robertson, his fellow officer, to Walton, is expected tomorrow. No word had come today from the rescuers who remained with Bishop as to his condition.

The ambulance, in charge of Major Brown, who was accompanied by fourteen men, left Yuma last night, but continued rain laid progress slow and it was impossible to forecast the probable time of arrival.

Bishop, no longer able to walk, gave up the struggle to walk back to civilization and was taken to the ambulance. The latter said, to go on and send back aid if he could. Robertson continued northward along the base of the Gila Mountains and found the searching party as he was almost exhausted. He directed them to the mountain pass where Bishop had lain twenty-four hours, almost famished for lack of food and shelter. The search party was drenched by the rains which continued the greater part of the nine days the two men were lost on the desert.

JAPANESE NEGOTIATE LOAN.

Chinese Parliament Unable to Prevent \$5,000,000 Deal.

PEKING, Jan. 19 (delayed).—Japanese bankers, it is announced, have signed an agreement with the Bank of Communications for a loan of \$5,000,000 in silver at 7 1/2 per cent. The Chinese Parliament attempted to prevent the loan, but was unsuccessful, as the transaction, it was stated, does not increase the Government's liability in connection with the bank. The loan is secured by bank notes and bonds.

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20,000 GUARDSMEN TO LEAVE BORDER

No Order Issued Yet for Pershing to Quit Mexico, However.

MAY DELAY AMBASSADOR

Fletcher's Presence at Capital Might Favor Carranza Diplomatically.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Immediate withdrawal of "a substantial number" of National Guardsmen from the border has been ordered by the War Department, and Gen. Funston is selecting the units to be sent home. In announcing the order last today Secretary Baker said the number to be withdrawn at this time probably would be 15,000 or 20,000. The Secretary refused to comment on the order or say what relation it might have to the withdrawal of Gen. Pershing's expedition from Mexico. He said that the organizations ordered to be withdrawn would be announced as soon as Gen. Funston reported those he had designated. This withdrawal will reduce the force of State troops on the border to between 55,000 and 60,000 men.

No Order to Pershing Yet.

The announcement generally was accepted, however, as an indication that the withdrawal of Pershing's force would not be long delayed. To-night, however, it was said authoritatively that no order to bring the regulars north had yet been issued. It is the policy of the Department not to permit disintegration of the National Guard organization, and the intention is to hold every man in service, unless he is ordered to leave.

This policy of maintaining intact the strength of the National Guard is taken as further indication of what will be the Administration's future policy in dealing with Mexico. This policy, it has been indicated, contemplates dealing with the de facto government on a strictly formal basis rather than on an altruistic basis. Thus it is understood that the activities of Villa and the question of who occupies the territory Pershing is about to leave will be regarded here as problems for Carranza.

May Delay Ambassador.

Whether the Administration intends to delay sending Ambassador Fletcher to Mexico city until after the American troops come out has not been definitely stated, but it has been pointed out that the stationing of an Ambassador at the Carranza capital might be construed as sanctioning certain acts of the de facto Government against which this Government has persistently protested.

There was a suggestion today that continued disapproval of these acts might possibly serve to delay indefinitely Ambassador Fletcher's departure for Mexico.

One question brought sharply to the fore was the late work of the Government toward the National Bank and the Bank of London and Mexico. It was pointed out that the Government was in the first instance it would be like complying to the decree that their metal reserves be increased dollar for dollar with the note issue.

Since then the Government has secured from them a large loan in currency and bullion, the metal being carted from the banks to the Treasury. French and British diplomats are now awaiting without avail.

PERSHING'S EXIT.

Withdrawal From Mexico Expected to Begin Next Week.

EL PASO, Jan. 20.—Although no official information has been given out here regarding the expected withdrawal of troops from Mexico, army officers of this district say they expect the movement to begin early next week. These officers said that Gen. Pershing held a final review yesterday at El Valle, his southernmost point, preparatory to the withdrawal of the troops from the border. It will require four days for them to move from the El Valle outpost to field headquarters at Dublin.

The actual movement over the border is not expected to start until later, as it will be necessary for the surplus supplies and baggage to be brought out by the motor truck trains which have already left Columbus, N. M., for the South. Two weeks will be required to move all of the troops to Columbus, it was estimated.

The empty truck trains passed through Casas Grandes yesterday en route to El Valle and San Joaquin, a message from Casas Grandes to-day stated.

CARRANZA KEEPS SILENT

Avoids Giving Opinion on Break Up of Commission Here.

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 20.—Gen. Carranza said today in a telegram from Queretaro that he had no official cognisance of the termination of the conferences of the Mexican-American joint commission and therefore was unable to say whether he was satisfied with its recommendations, which include the withdrawal of Gen. Pershing's expedition from Mexico and the sending of Ambassador Fletcher to his post here. Gen. Carranza's message was in reply to a telegram asking him whether the move was satisfactory. He replied as follows:

"In regard to your telegram of previous date officially I have no cognisance of the termination of the conference, and for that reason I am not able to give the declaration which you ask."

LABOR TO BACK PEACE MOVE.

Gompers Says A. F. of L. Is Considering United Action.

Organized labor is expected to line up solidly on the side of President Wilson's world peace programme. Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., yesterday announced that the executive council of that organization is considering action on the matter and that a general notice will be sent out soon to the various branches and to the New York body especially concerning it.

President Gompers is known to have sent out a general appeal to the trade unions of the world asking them to prepare for a general peace congress.

In conjunction with this plan the Socialist party in this country is agitating for an international congress to be held in London, and a movement looking toward peace.

Inquiries have been sent to the Socialist parties of other nations feeling them out for opinion. The British party, it is understood, favors the idea of a congress. Belgium and France, however, flatly rejected it. The meeting, if it is held, is planned for The Hague.

JERSEYMEN PROTEST AGAINST EXPLOSIVES

Tell Assembly Committee of Menace From Transportation of Munitions.

SHIPS A GREAT DANGER

Expert Says if One Blew Up Large Part of City Would Crumble.

A long list of officials and residents of Jersey City appeared yesterday before the New Jersey Assembly committee appointed to investigate the recent explosions and described themselves as living in great and constant fear that unless something drastic is done to prohibit or regulate the manufacture and shipping of munitions of war they, the State of New Jersey and the entire metropolitan district will leave present locations for parts unknown.

Most of them favored laws, they said, that would forbid absolutely the manufacture of explosives in New Jersey, and that would prevent railroads from transporting explosives into or through that State. Such laws, most of them admitted, would probably be stricken from the statute books by the courts. The next best thing, and a course which they deem necessary, is to arrange to supervise and regulate in every detail the manufacture of munitions, their storage and their transportation.

Committee's Power Limited.

It was the first hearing of the committee, and was held yesterday afternoon in the City Hall. The committee members are Henry G. Hershfield, Jacob Vreeland, Harry D. Johnson, Frank A. Dolan and Walter G. Winne. The committee has been appointed for six months in the workhouse imposed Wednesday when Reitmman was convicted on a charge of distributing birth control literature here.

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One Gigantic Blast.

It was explained that the explosion of 2,000 tons of munitions in a ship would be more destructive than the explosion of the same amount if it was divided among fifty freight cars, even if the freight cars were close together. They were frequently close together in the first instance it would be like the explosion of one gigantic cartridge, and in the second, fifty closely consecutive explosions of fifty comparatively smaller lots.

Dr. McKenna and James M. Connelly, inspector of combustibles in Jersey City, said that the Erie Railroad's shipments of explosives to Cleveland afford an ever present danger.

"At any time might come an explosion there that would topple Grant's Tomb into the North river," said Dr. McKenna. "and we in this room, if we survived, would find the whole metropolitan district in a wreck. The danger is constant; fire frequently occurs from natural causes on shipboard and the eruption of a nearby loaded vessel would lay waste vast stretches here and in New York city and through the whole district."

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MRS. HEN CACKLING AGAINST OLD HI COST

Miss Pullet Also Starts In Laying and 'Fresh Eggs' Drop 11 Cts. a Dozen.

Mrs. Hen and her 1916 daughter, Miss Pullet, probably aroused by numerous H. C. of L. inquiries, have come to the rescue of the ultimate consumer. They have increased so late in their laying, that they have forced down the wholesale price of "fresh gathered" eggs 11 cents a dozen in the last six days. But, although they have done well in thus reducing the price of fresh eggs, the best they could do in that time with the wholesale price of cold storage eggs—the product of their maternal ancestors—was to lower it a little over a cent a dozen.

On Monday fresh gathered "extras" were quoted at 53¢55 cents and "extra firsts" at 54 cents per dozen, while refrigerator "firsts" were 33½¢40 cents and "seconds" 37½¢38½¢ per dozen. Yesterday fresh gathered "extras" were quoted at 44¢45 cents and "extra firsts" at 45, while refrigerator "firsts" were 27½¢28 cents and "seconds" 36¢37 cents per dozen.

When the price of fresh eggs goes down the price of the cold storage product is supposed to follow. The dealers are confident the refrigerator egg will take a bigger drop if the supply of fresh eggs increases. There was a difference of only 3½ cents per dozen yesterday between the wholesale price of fresh gathered "firsts" and cold storage "firsts," which isn't much of a difference for eggs laid here and not ten months old. It is expected that retailers will take notice in the near future of the eleven cent drop in whole egg price and will give their customers the benefit.

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